

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 10 are amended to recite the features of allowable claims 8 or 11-12 (that the device is frustoconically tapered), Claims 8, 11, 12 and 14 are cancelled, and claim 13 is amended to depend upon claim 10. Claims 1-7, 9, 13 and 15 -17 are before the examiner.

Claims 15-17 are allowed; and claims 8, 12 and 13 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the base and intervening claim limitations. By this amendment, claims 1 and 10 are amended to correspond to the independent form of claims 8, 11 and 12, and claim 13 is amended for consistency. Claims 2-7 and 9 depend from allowable claim 1, and claim 13 from allowable claim 10. All pending claims are thus allowable.

The rejection of claims 1-7, 9 and 10 as anticipated, although not conceded, is believed to be moot in view of the amendment. The examiner noted in the advisory action that amended claim 10 did not incorporate claim 11 from which claim 12 depended, thus claim 12 was not placed in independent form. Claim 10 is now amended to incorporate claim 11 (now canceled), thus placing claim 12 in independent form.

The advisory action also indicated that proposed Claim 14 would have presented a new combination of features and limitations not previously

considered allowable. Although applicant does not agree, claim 14 is cancelled without prejudice to advance the case to conclusion.

The amendment thus conforms to the requirements of the Final Office Action and the advisory action and should be entered after final rejection because it places the application in condition for allowance and raises no new issues for examination. If there are any further issues that the examiner did not identify in the advisory action, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned counsel be contacted by telephone, rather than issuing a new Advisory Action, in view of the bona fide efforts to conform to each of the examiner's requirements.

Further examination of the application, as amended, and reconsideration of the rejections and objections are respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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